GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5630
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2007
MOBILE AND BROADBAND SERVICE OF BSNL
Sarma Dr. Arun Kumar;Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether mobile and broadband services of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are mostly unavailable and have largely failed to reach out to large parts of Assam especially in the strategic districts of Dibrugarh and Tinsukia;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to augment the BSNL mobile and broadband services to all the districts and the sub-divisional headquarters of the States?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Sir, Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) based Cellular Mobile Service of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is presently available in all the District Head Quarters and in 47 out of 49 Sub-Divisional District Headquarters (SDHQs) of Assam. All SDHQs in Dibrugarh and Tinsukhia are covered with GSM based Cellular Mobile Service of BSNL.

Broadband service of BSNL is presently available in Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Silchar, Tinsukhia, Disspur, Duliajan and Nagaon.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The GSM based cellular mobile service of BSNL is available in 606 District Headquarters (DHQs) out of total 607 DHQs and in 2235 Sub-Divisional District Headquarters (SDHQs) out of 2317 SDHQs in its Licensed Service Areas (LSAs). Action has been initiated to cover the remaining areas during the current financial year, except those which may be falling under the no service/buffer zone near International border.

BSNL has plans to provide Broadband Services in all District Headquarters and important SDHQs during the current year in its LSAs. Remaining SDHQs are to be covered during the period 2008 to 2010 progressively.